meeting was preceded by a detailed meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan.

(b) to (e) Both the Ministers had a useful, constructive and candid exchange of views on the situation in our bilateral relations. They agreed that the future direction in our bilateral relations has to be one of deeper, sustained and meaningful relations. EAM conveyed to Pakistan FM our view that for a sustained and meaningful dialogue process to succeed, it is essential to ensure an environment free of violence, terrorism and the threat to use violence. EAM underlined and reiterated that concrete and effective steps by Pakistan against individuals and entities who pose a threat to us can instill in us the confidence that commitments given by Pakistan for not allowing its soil to be used for terrorist attacks against India would be adhered to. Pakistan FM conveyed the seriousness of his Government in bringing to book through their legal process those responsible for the terrorist outrage in Mumbai. Pakistan FM conveyed that the trial against those accused for the Mumbai attack would begin shortly and that the Pakistan Government would take steps to see that justice is done.

Position of Arunachal Pradesh in Google map

800. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Google map depicts Arunachal Pradesh as part of China;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps that has been taken by Government in this concern; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) to (d) Government is aware of reports to such effect. The matter was taken up with Google. Google issued a statement in August, 2009 admitting that it was the result of an error in processing of data. The error has since been corrected in the Google Maps for India *< http://maps.google.co.in >*.

Passport application sent by speed post

801. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the Regional Passport Office (RPO), Shimla, has been sending back passport applications sent to the office by speed post;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has issued any order to the various regional passport offices instructing them not to accept such applications which are being sent by speed post;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if not, the action Government has taken against those responsible for not accepting such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): (a) Yes.

(b) Submission of passport applications by post/courier is not authorized. Passport applications need to be submitted in person or through authority letter at the Passport Offices, or in person at the District Passport Cells (DPCs) or at authorized Speed Post Centres (SPCs).

(c) Yes. The Ministry issued orders in September, 2009 discontinuing the acceptance of passport applications through post.

(d) The following, *inter alia*, were the reasons:—

(i) The Ministry have set up DPCs at the district headquarters, which are manned by the police personnel, where passport applications can be submitted in person. At present, there are 463 district Passport Centres. In Himachal Pradesh, DPCs are functioning in all the 13 district headquarters.

(ii) Similarly, 1095 SPCs, which are manned by the personnel of the Department of Posts, have been set up, where passport applications can be submitted in person.

(iii) Only less than 10 percent of applications were being received through post by various Passport Offices. Most postal applications received were found to be filled improperly and submitted without proper/prescribed documents.

(iv) At the Passport Office, DPC and SPC, scrutiny of applications for completeness is done at the counter before an application is accepted and applicants can rectify omissions and errors, if any. Original documents are also verified, which cannot be done in the case of postal applications.

(v) Most of the applications received by post were found to be incomplete or wrongly filled up. In all such cases, additional/correct information needed to be called for from the applicants, with consequential delay in issue of passport.

(e) Not applicable.

Special envoy on Kashmir

802. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Organisations of Islamic Conference (OIC) has appointed special envoy on Kashmir;

(b) the number of nations that join together to constitute OIC;

(c) would this move on the part of Pakistan not amount to internationalise the issue of Kashmir;